

**Town of Boscawen
Beautification Committee
116 North Main St
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, April 23rd, 2022, at 9:00 AM**

Members Present: Chair John Keegan, Jeff Abbe, Beverly Drouin, Nancy Towle & Beth Desmarais

Excused: Paul Dickey-Ex Officio

Others Present:

Chair John Keegan opened the public meeting at 9:02 AM.

Roll Call: Completed

Minutes: Chair Keegan request to change line 4, correction of date, Monday, February 16th, 2022.

Chair Keegan requested a change, line 61, change ‘they’ to ‘the society...’.

Mr. Abbe motioned to approve the Beautification Minutes of 02.16.22 as amended. Seconded by Ms. Towle. All in favor. None opposed.

New Business:

Budget: There are no financials to review at this point. Chair Keegan would like the members to consider requesting \$200 from the Select Board (SB) Beautification budget. The total budget is \$700. Ms. Beth Desmarais asked for clarification on what the money would be used for. It would cover the cost of materials. Ms. Desmarais suggested another option being fundraising. Chair Keegan explained the only fundraising the Beautification Committee does is keeping a donation box in the town clerk’s office. They collected donations totaling about \$300 from August to December 2021 for the roundabout. Chair Keegan requested ideas for a new logo that would be used on the donation containers for this Committee. Ms. Nancy Towle noted for all the work and materials needed at the Rtes. 3 & 4 lights for flowers, fertilizer and maintenance, and so on the minimum cost would be \$15,000 a year. The SB provides \$500 for Ms. Towle’s work at the intersection for which she is grateful. Discussion ensued. Chair Keegan clarified that this Committee would not be asking for the \$500 awarded to Ms. Towle yearly. He is proposing asking the SB to award this Committee the remaining \$200 as ‘seed’ money to help with beautification costs and demonstrate the SB commitment to support our work.

Ms. Beverly Drouin motioned to approve Chair Keegan to request \$200 from the Select Board Beautification budget. Seconded by Mr. Jeff Abbe. All in favor. None opposed.

Chair Keegan said the Committee needs the SB’s permission to seek outside funding. For example, individuals and organizations had reached out to him about making donations for the roundabout after that project ended. The funds were never forthcoming but might sources for the Beautification Committee to solicit support.

Ms. Desmarais motioned to approve Chair Keegan asking permission from the Select Board to seek outside funding opportunities. Seconded by Ms. Towle. All in favor. None opposed.

Mr. Abbe recalled that at the last meeting they discussed the funds in the roundabout account. Currently there is around \$2,000 in that dedicated account. Ms. Drouin recapped her understanding of the separation of Beautification Committee funding and the SB Beautification budget. Chair Keegan clarified that the

Beautification Committee does not have a \$700 budget. The SB has an Executive Budget with \$700 line item for beautification. Discussion ensued.

Marketing: Ms. Desmarais started the discussion on ideas for a new logo. Members discussed what types of pictures should be displayed. She suggested coming up with a slogan to catch people's attention. She suggested adding decorations to the containers in the town clerk offices such as flowers and/or having themes during the holidays. More discussion ensued on the decoration and location of the containers. Ms. Desmarais asked if they would need permission to produce more donation containers to put in local businesses or around town.

Ms. Drouin uses *postermymwall*, a software application to make posters. She can make them, but she would need copy from a town employee or photos from Committee Members. She will look further into *postermymwall* and bring back options to discuss at the next meeting.

Ms. Drouin motioned to ask the Select Board, as part of their advertising campaign, if they can put out donation cans at varying businesses around the area, starting with Franklin Savings Bank. Seconded by Ms. Desmarais. All in favor. None opposed.

King Street: Ms. Drouin asked for an update on the flag placement along King Street discussed at the last meeting. Chair Keegan said at this point there has been no further discussion to his knowledge. He volunteered to ask for an update. Ms. Drouin asked if it was anyone's understanding that the flag project would take place before moving the telephone poles to the other side of the street. Chair Keegan said it is unclear. Ms. Drouin feels it could be something the Beautification Committee takes on as a future project. Chair Keegan thinks it could be in the long term too but we need to focus on the short term projects. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Drouin asked if the person(s) who maintains the cast iron watering troth in front of the library has been identified. Ms. Towle said Cynthia and Ted Houston had maintained it. Ms. Drouin said it is important to clarify, when looking at areas to beautify, to make sure no one owns or maintains it currently. Ms. Desmarais asked if it belonged to the town. Last meeting, they asked Mr. Abbe to contact Linda Maloof about the troth. Chair Keegan said she expressed interest in Committee Membership. Chair Keegan invited her about today's meeting. He will call her to follow-up and ask if she has any information about the 1913 library.

Other: Chair Keegan told Ms. Drouin he never received the attached 'Thank You' note to Ms. Julie Fournier in the email she sent. She will resend the email to everyone with the letter included.

Beautification Plans: Ms. Towle asked about the plan to beautify the fire station. She asked if the Fire Department would take care of the watering and maintenance if the committee takes on the project. She said it is a busy spot with few areas to beautify. Chair Keegan said the specific request from the Fire Chief was to replace the two sets of flowers around the sign. The auxiliary had been maintaining the flowers, but they will not be doing so in the future. Chair Keegan agreed with the Chief to include it in our site visits and provide an outline of what we could do.

Ms. Towle stated she believes the committee's main focus should be the municipal building. She said it is where everyone comes for town and library services. Ms. Desmarais also thinks another campaign to advertise for more volunteers would be beneficial. Chair Keegan said it would be included in their marketing campaign.

Old Business at the Roundabout: Mr. Abbe researched new lights for the flagpole. Costs run anywhere from \$25 up to \$1,400. Solar lights only last 2 to 3 years because they run on batteries. Mr. Abbe doesn't

think the lights in use should be replaced until they are broken. The current lights are still functional. The committee decided to postpone replacement. Mr. Abbe said the flag does need to be replaced. It is faded and the ends are tattered. Ms. Drouin said she could sew it if it could be mended. A new flag would cost \$89. Chair Keegan met with Mr. Gary Moore, Facilities Director, (FD) who is in charge of building and grounds for the town. FD Moore said there are two new flags in the town's inventory. If they are the correct size, one could be used at the roundabout. Mr. Abbe suggested replacing it by 4th of July or Memorial Day.

Mr. Abbe said the rotary looks great. The irrigation is not yet on but there is plenty of moisture under the mulch. The daffodils came up in triples. The tulips will last around 5 to 6 years. Chair Keegan spoke with Doug Thomson. He will be putting irrigation around the sign and turn on the irrigation at the roundabout when needed. Chair Keegan will call Bill Murphy to ask the water be turned on at the valve, if not already on. Mr. Abbe said they should start irrigating in mid-May. Ms. Towle recommended using a liquid organic fish fertilizer. Chair Keegan suggested scheduling a time at the roundabout for a work session. Ms. Towle said the perennials need to be cut. Mr. Abbe has clipped them, but he left some of the taller grasses which can be cut now. Ms. Desmarais and Mr. Abbe will set a day in May to meet at the roundabout for a work session.

Site Walk: There is a new cement pad at the municipal building. Last year there were whiskey barrels with flowers as well as pick-up and drop-off boxes on the pavement impeding traffic going to and from the building. This year the entrance is clear with the boxes on the new pad to the left of the entrance. FD Moore asked that the Committee put a barrier around the planting area so the soil doesn't wash onto the cement. The irrigation system does not work. Ms. Desmarais said her husband could volunteer with landscaping. She suggested putting a hasta garden in the area discussed. Ms. Drouin suggested putting in a plant such as oriental grass to anchor the corner. Bernie Davis said the snow is shoveled into the area to be planted. Ms. Towle suggested putting low golden mops. They are indestructible no matter the weather. At maturity they are 3 feet tall and turns bright yellow in the springtime. The committee discussed perennials, low shrubs, and a hydrangea. The quick-fire hydrangea's can be up to 8ft. tall and up to 6 ft. wide. They don't need to be covered and would bloom from June to October. Currently no one maintains this spot. Ms. Desmarais suggested, in the future, having volunteers 'Adopt a Spot' such as this to maintain.

New area discussed: Ms. Towle suggested replacing the lilac at the end of the walkway along the parking lot with an evergreen. It would be more attractive year round and require less maintenance. Ms. Towle also suggested a hydrangea tree, but it would need to be staked because it bends in the wind. The conclusion was to remove the lilac and replace it with an evergreen.

New area discussed: Mr. Abbe asked if the suckers on both sides of the newly refurbished entrance should be cut-out. Ms. Towle agreed but noted the Bittersweet should be removed ASAP. Chair Keegan had also talked with FD Moore about planting around the flagpole in front of the building. Ms. Towle suggested perennials at the flagpole to add color. Purple coneflower would be a low-maintenance perennial. They grow up to 3-feet. It would bloom from June to October with fertilization. All agreed.

Ms. Towle suggested focusing our resources on the area around the Boscawen Municipal Facility sign. Everyone entering the town offices, library and police department drives by the sign, so it is a visual attraction point. She suggested different plants that would look good in the area. Discussion followed. Ms. Drouin recommended, and Chair Keegan agreed, designing the ultimate garden with a year or more to plan for meeting our goal. Ms. Towle said if they put annuals and perennials in, she should remove the turf from the area and put in nice mulch. Mr. Abbe noted we need to be careful with the buried electrical

lines. Ms. Drouin said it would need to be in phases. She suggested for this year, brainstorming ideas, and creating a budget. Ms. Towle suggested at least putting in annuals this year to add color. Overall, the Committee discussed one garden, designed like an island, in the area around the Boscawen Municipal Facility sign and the Library sign.

Next Meeting: Chair Keegan asked the committee members about meeting in May. They decided weekday nights are better for site walks and meetings. They confirmed a meeting on May 23rd at 6:30pm.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Drouin; Seconded by Mr. Abbe. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted, Hannah Gardner